

Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit

April 2010

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Welcome Terri Barclay!

Greetings!

My name is Terri Barclay. I am a new employee at the OPI. I have recently moved to Helena, Montana from St. Regis, Montana where I taught for 14 years. My background is in early grades elementary, PK-12 special education, Title I and Technology Integration. I bring to this position many years of working with multitudes of children with diverse needs and backgrounds.

I have been hired full-time working between two divisions. I work half-time as an Instructional Specialist for Early Grades Curriculum and half-time with the Early Reading First Grant, supporting family literacy and kindergarten transition in the different schools and centers across the state. As the Early Grades Curriculum Specialist, I work with the Model Full-Time Kindergarten Curriculum guide. I am eager to delve into the many exciting projects happening with the OPI across the state. Having the opportunity to support teacher instruction as well as student learning is a job that I am thrilled to carry out.

Links for Resources:

[Center on Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning Resources for Teachers and Caregivers](#)
[Universal Design for Learning](#)
[Reading Rockets](#)
<http://superteachertools.com/>

OPI Contact: Terri Barclay (406) 444-0753 or tbarclay2@mt.gov

The Content Standards Informer (CSI) will be distributed the first Friday of each month through the Content Standards Informer Listserv. If you would like to receive the CSI each month please sign up for the listserv at:

<http://lists.opi.mt.gov/mailman/listinfo/contentstandardsinformer>

Online Instructional Mentoring

The New Teacher Center offers its foundational professional development - Instructional Mentoring - online. Enhance or develop your district mentoring program. This is the last session for this school year -six free slots are being offered in the upcoming session to Montana schools for [the usual cost is \$400 per person]. More information can be found on the on Web site at: <http://newteachercenter.org/ti/menu.php?p=iim> Contact Alyson Mike amike@newteachercenter.org by **APRIL 5**; despite what is posted on the Web site. Materials will be sent out in time for the April 12 start date.

Mathematics Essential Learning Expectations

The Mathematics Essential Learning Expectations (ELE) have just been completed after going through a review from Education Northwest. The documents, by grade level and by benchmark, will be posted on the OPI Web site soon. Can't wait! Contact Jean Howard and she will e-mail them directly to you. A caution, due to the possible use of the National Common Core Standards, please use the ELE for guidance rather than spending hours on curriculum work. Information on the Common Core Initiative and a copy of the draft K-12 Common Core Standards can be found at www.corestandards.org. Montana's response to each draft can be found at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/Index.html#gpm1_7.

Rubik's Cube Incentives and Rewards

Rubik's Cube. The You CAN Do the Rubik's Cube! <http://www.youcandothecube.com/> The campaign objective is to not only share the secrets of solving the Rubik's Cube with young people, but to also encourage them to help others to do the same. Program incentives and rewards are available for participants to earn as they mentor and lead others through this challenging yet rewarding process.

April is Math Awareness Month!

The Mathematical Association of America, along with the American Mathematical Society, the American Statistical Association, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics have announced that the theme for Mathematics Awareness Month, April 2010, is "**Mathematics and Sports.**" Activities for Mathematics Awareness Month include a wide variety of workshops, competitions, exhibits, festivals, lectures, and symposia. The 2010 Mathematics Awareness Web site has articles on baseball, basketball, football, golf, soccer, track and field, tennis, and car racing, as well as videos and links to other resources at www.mathaware.org.

OPI Contact: Jean Howard (406) 444-0706 or jhoward@mt.gov

National K-12 Science Leadership Development and Strategic Planning Institute

The National K-12 Science Education Leadership Development and Strategic Planning Institute is offered by the National Science Resource Center and will guide school district leadership teams through the rigorous process of developing tailored strategic plans for initiating and implementing an effective hands-on, inquiry-centered, and research-based science education program that brings about systemic reform of science education. The Institute is July 11-16, 2010, in Alexandria, Virginia. Registration is due by May 1, 2010. You can register your school district leadership team and access more information by viewing the program brochure at [PROGRAM BROCHURE](#).

OPI Contact: Katie Burke (406) 444-3557 or kburke@mt.gov

Poem on the Range: Getting Montana Poetry on the Map!

Making a pilgrimage to one of Montana's iconic literary places? Heading to the Bison Range in Moiese to view the wildlife? Take a picture or video and post it to the American Academy of Poets (AAP) national map. The AAP has launched an ongoing and collaborative multimedia-mapping project subtitled: Mapping Places through Iconic Poems. We need to have Montana represented on that map.

Here's how you can participate:

1. Post a video of you or your students reading at the place referred to in the poem. Be creative in capturing a sense of place.
2. Post images of landmarks, towns, dwellings, streets, roadside ephemera, and other places immortalized by poems.
3. Post images of poets' gravesites or homes (being respectful of course ... no one likes the paparazzi).

Check out AAP's Web site: <http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/563> But we'd like to know locally what you've done as well; we may be able to incorporate your creation into visual projects for the upcoming festivals of the book or in a Web-collage of Montana's literary places. And while AAP might just be interested in poetry; we're interested in all literary landmarks.

Contact Lisa Simon for further information and to demonstrate your wildest creativity in mapping Montana's literature: lisainmt@gmail.com

OPI Contact: Kris Goyins (406) 444-0729 or kgoyins@mt.gov

School Libraries

It is the mission of the school library to ensure that students are effective users and producers of ideas and information.

Join teacher librarians for the Montana Library Association Conference in Bozeman, April 7-10. Registration and program information can be found at <http://www.mtlib.org>.

Performance rubrics for the Information Literacy/Library Media Content Standards are undergoing final review before they will be available on the OPI Web site. Please contact Colet Bartow if you have any questions or would like to review these critical documents for assessing information literacy skills and knowledge.

Consider joining the Montana Teacher Librarian group on Facebook or follow Colet on Twitter for updates and links of importance for navigating the changing face of school libraries in the 21st century. The SLMD listserv is another way to keep current. Contact Colet for questions about how to connect to these information outlets.

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The Growing Excellence Gap

Many educators and politicians speak about an achievement gap, but is there an excellence gap? Plucker, Burroughs, and Song (2010) provide strong support for the excellence gap in their report: *Mind the Other Gap! The Growing Excellence Gap in K-12 Education* (Bloomington: Indiana University Center for Evaluation and Education Policy). In drawing their conclusions, the authors reviewed the NAEP data and concluded that achievement gaps exist at all levels and among all groups, noting that little progress has been made in substantially reducing excellence gaps since the passage of NCLB. State and national policies may be related to this lack of improvement. At the national level, little attention is paid to students at advanced levels, and at the state level, support is inconsistent with most states allowing local schools to make decisions about the way they will support services for gifted and talented students. Here are their recommendations:

1. Make closing the excellence gap a national and state priority.
2. Acknowledge that both minimum and excellence can be addressed at the same time.
3. Set realistic goals to shrink gaps.
4. Determine the appropriate mix of federal, state and local policies and interventions.
5. Include the performance of advanced students in discussions of common standards.
6. Address the "Low-hanging Policy Fruit" immediately.
7. Conduct more research-much more research-on advanced learning and talent development.

The full report is available at <http://ceep.indiana.edu/mindthe gap>.

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